

HHIA Meeting  
September 24, 2018

Roll call

Present: Jim Sahaida, Anna Baldwin, Lisa Bertke, Beth Murphy, Julie Orrick, Tara Ohler, Eileen Muir  
Absent: Kendal Dauphin, Stacy Ross, Michael Dauphin

New to the neighborhood? Susan Jones, moved here last month. I live on Wilmington. I am a past president of the St. Louis Board of Education and current board member. Happy to be here and so far I love the area.

Guest Speakers:

Alderwoman Sarah Martin: I have quite a few things but I will try to be quick. One problem that I have seen with the CSB and constituents encounter this daily. Call CSB, report is closed out, and nothing happened. Trying to work with the CSB, Mayor's office, Director of Operations office. Through no fault of the caller, it is reported to the proper people and the code states "sent to the proper dept" and the complaint is closed. A complaint about a tree from 2013 was repeatedly closed. Working on improving that process. Lyle Mansion, putting out a RFP to see what developers/restauranteurs have come up with for the mansion. We would like to see something similar to the coffee house in Francis Park. We have had a major developer approach us about turning it into an event space. This is really exciting. Our neighbors on the Landmark Assoc got this going. Working with some folks on a dog park in the Carondelet Lyons Park over in the Patch neighborhood. Partnering with CCBF for fundraising. Have to raise money for the expensive insurance. Legislative...25% of a park can be donated to a dog park. The park is so small so I am trying to get an exemption. Broadway Bluffs neighborhood assoc have been organizing. Very well organized...looking to make improvement to Sr. Marie Charles Park. Boo on Broadway fall festival, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> from 4pm-9pm. Bars will have drinks and kid's stuff too. Please go over there and support them. Sports in the Ward...ball field at the Y has seen major improvements. I want our facilities to be up to speed so that our kids can host games. Also a point of pride for our children. Dugouts will be donated. The field was laser graded...working on a soccer park. No place for kids to play soccer this far south in the city. The fields off S. Kingshighway were closed. Please let me know if you want to be involved and help organize. Grand and Holly Hills, Intrada space opened. The Epworth Center is managing the kids that are aging out of foster care. Already had a couple folks show up at neighborhood meetings. Loughborough and Holly Hills, Beth has teamed up with me...we know that it looks terrible there. An entry point for our neighborhood. The railroad is the biggest problem as they are not returning our calls. Carondelet Community Betterment Federation, next meeting on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the YMCA. I treat that as my ward meeting as it encompasses 90% of my ward. The bridge...they hope to start construction in the spring. The Bird Habitat is now open. Come check it out.

Q: Where do you stand on lobbyists being on the floor?

A: I voted in favor of the ban.

Laura Barrett speaking on behalf of Prop B: How many folks know what Prop B is? Minimum wage. Looking to raise the minimum wage gradually. It's currently \$314 a week...do you think you can live off that? If you have kids, you are cutting out sport's teams for your kids, meals are tight. If we raise it to \$12/hour we will have the largest of the 9 states around us. Nebraska's is the highest, it's \$9/hour. A lot of people are worried about the effect on small businesses. Concern that it might raise prices. We've done a lot of research...there is a great study over the last 20 years. Looked at areas where the

minimum wage raised. Those workers were better able to survive the recession. The economies are much stronger. Low wage workers...will go out and purchase items like shoes for their kids and parts to fix their car. Charlie O'Reilly of O'Reilly Auto Parts and Maxine Clark of Build a Bear are supporting it...400 other businesses support to. [www.Businessforafairminimumwage.com](http://www.Businessforafairminimumwage.com). Who else is supporting this? Leave of Women Voters. NAACP, Archdiocese of STL, Peace and Justice Commission. Goes right along with Pope Francis and his strong belief that we need to take care of folks living in poverty. Some think it might be hard on business to raise wages, the raise is .85 cents per year until it reaches \$12. It allows folks to plan. Some of the businesses have said...when I pay a little bit more I get employees with better customer service, don't have to recruit as often, it's good for my bottom line. You guys get it...you already voted once on this in the city. That's why we had to vote at the state level. We are making a huge effort to reach out to faith congregations. You guys can help by connecting me or the campaign with your congregation. We will print the inserts for your bulletins and get them to you. You can also volunteer...looking for phone and canvassing opportunities. If you're part of a non-profit that has not endorsed the campaign yet, please ask your organization to endorse. I am leaving a fact sheet. I appreciate your support and great to be here with you.

President Lewis Reed: How's everybody doing tonight? If you live or work in the City of St. Louis, earlier this year we passed a board bill that requires the city to establish an economic growth strategy. Our credit rating has been reduced 3 years in a row. It costs us more to borrow money...that gets passed on to you. Credit rating agencies have said that we don't know what your growth strategy is. The plan is supposed to be completed July annually. We are in the process of hiring firms to help us complete the first year. The board of alderman is the legislative branch, we can't tell the executive branch what to do. It's been a bit of a fight to get this thing done. Also passed a bill that requires an annual public safety plan. Why is that important? Think about the six murders we just had yesterday. I'm standing before you...my nephew was shot and killed and burned in a dumpster. Families are impacted by that for years to come. It is a very tough and difficult situation. The challenge is getting the budgets to align with the delivery of the resources to address the issues of public safety. Attempting to get the city to execute a public safety plan. I get passionate about it...trying to stay subdued tonight. Francis Slay did the "peer plan". The second thing is the implementation, then the funding. To do that we made it a requirement that a plan be put in place on an annual basis, followed by the funding. Plan also must be measured each quarter to tell if we are on target or not. I have been pushing the public safety director. We need to look at Operation Ceasefire...why is it important? There are a million public safety plans out there. Only a handful that work. Operation Ceasefire has been adopted by the Dept of Justice to address public safety in an urban setting. It approaches public safety in a different manner. Call-ins...identify groups that are creating most of the crime within your neighborhood and community. It's a handful of groups. They begin to engage that group with call-ins. They have the FBI, police, neighborhood liaisons. Tell the individual that we know what you've been involved in...zero tolerance moving forward. Anyone within your group that commits any of these things, we are coming down on you and your group. They begin to work with them and offer social services. The group begins to implode. It begins to change the group dynamics. That's a program that works. Here's how successful it is...they have seen upwards of 70% drop in violent crime. Tons of guns taken off the streets with this program. It's a departure from the broken windows theory. Complete communications with these groups. Cities have dropped their violent crime down by 70%. Lack of funding and commitment to the program leads to a rise in crime again. Can you imagine if we were able to drop our crime rate by 70%? We can do it...we have to pick a program that works. We are way beyond reinventing the wheel. It's not fair to the police officers, the people that live here. We need something that works and we need something that works now.

Q: How do we do it?

A: They have a whole canned program. The Dept of Justice will engage with the city. It's largely up to the public safety director and the mayor. We have to lobby the mayor and public safety dir to do it.

Q: You mentioned several cities...which ones?

A: Atlanta, New York, Chicago. We finally have Civic Progress interested in this now...they have brought the guy that created the program in. That helps.

You have no idea how much it changes the conversation when you all show up at City Hall. It completely changes things the minute you walk into the room. I introduced the dog parks bill...didn't think at the time about 25%...sorry for that. It took resident involvement to get it introduced. It becomes dramatically easier when you show up. There's enough people in this room right now...it will change the conversation. Preaching this for six years.

Q: This guy gets threatened...keep your guy in order. Somebody gets shot by one of the group...what do they get charged with?

A: Let's say you're part of the gang...you already have a rap sheet. Anything that happens within that group...everything that you've ever done you are now accountable.

Q: it sounds good to hold them responsible, but will they really do it. Will our current prosecutor nail these people?

A: Yes. Because the prosecutor's office also participates. So when it comes through...the prosecutor will already have someone in the system. I completely understand the direction of your question.

Q: Economic growth strategy...how will the vendors be evaluated?

A: They have a whole list of questions in the RFP...experience and ability (plans they put together and the outcome) and pricing are all factors. Narrow it down to the final three, final decision based on interviews and the responses

Q: You said you were working on this for six years? Just a matter of the mayor and dir of public safety...what is the stumbling block?

A: It's a redirection of funding...we have a Health Dept today. The Health Dept would have an outreach component that would become part of the Operation Ceasefire that they would have to deliver. I have no idea why it has taken so long...I can tell you that it is complex. There is a feeling that if I identify the high crime neighborhoods...I can begin to address the issues. It's so much more complex than that. It has to do with jobs and keeping kids occupied. This will be a system that will open up communication across depts. and with community orgs.

Q: The Dept of Justice will partner with us?

A: Will you have to be added to a queue? We are one of the most dangerous cities...I don't think they would hesitate to help.

Q: I live in Walnut Park, one of the highest crime areas in the City of St. Louis. This program might anger my fellow residents...no new resources. I see people standing around they can't read...every night I hear gunshots and constant sirens. It's traumatizing. But I don't see city services coming to my neighborhood...hundreds of vacant houses. Until the city does what they are supposed to do, then you will see a substantial drop in crime.

A: I think that is a component of it. The requirement for the public safety plan is so important because you have to begin to align the resources and the dollars and it has to be measured. Short of that, you

will have people doing pet projects. When you look at a plan that works...we have to get beyond all of these things that keep us from implementing a plan that works.

Q: I would really like the city to start to see the vacant houses getting addressed.

A: I introduced a resolution to begin looking at banking practices in the city. Oh...Pres Reed wants to open a bank. I wanted us to look at banking practices. If you are opening up a business and you look at one part of the city...the banks will value that loan much differently in an area where the stats are flipped. They call that risk mitigation. How often are loans denied to those that live in certain areas...this happens quite often. When we look at the # of vacant and abandoned buildings...those things are happening outside of what the city itself is doing. It's happening because the banks are treating areas of the city differently. We have the Federal Reserve and other community orgs working with us. Then we can begin to change some of that dynamic. We are the legislative body...the mayor will eventually listen to us because they will need something from us.

Q: Can you give us one or two specific action items that we can take to help you implement a public safety plan?

A: I wanna give you a hug...first thing is we plan to have some meetings and we will let you know. Second, research Operation Ceasefire and then email the mayor's office about it. Again, showing up helps. Some of the news stations are visiting these other cities and will hopefully start calling for it. The power is in this room to change it.

Q: You just said that the mayor isn't listening to you...why would the mayor listen to us? Just playing devil's advocate.

A: You do have a power...if we are calling for it on the legislative branch. The needle gets moved when the word is out and the masses start to agree.

Q: Ward reduction?

A: Currently the bill is in front of the board of alderman. Ward reduction itself sounds good...28 of you. Less people living in the city today...why do you still need 28? When you begin to think through the dynamics...ward reduction really began to grow out of lobbyists not wanting to have to deal with an alderperson that says...let me see what my neighborhood assoc wants. Why should I have to contend with the colored bricks because of the community org. Because of all the power that you have...because a neighborhood can get together and unseat an alderman...when you cut your vote in half. Especially if you think it's difficult to get rid of the alderman you don't like now...it is now going to take twice as much. That person will be well-funded. Getting more money from the businesses and lobbyists and everyone else. It will cost twice as much for that person to run now. What happens to the budget when the wards are reduced? The thinking was, it's \$35k for an alderperson. But the demands are so much that it's tough to do a full time job also. We can increase the salary and a person can do it full time. What does the board of alderman look like today? Five alderman share 1 secretary. 1 attorney represents us all. We don't have air conditioning in the chambers because it is very unpopular for them to vote for something for themselves. The budget has just continued to decrease over time. The question is...what's important? If you look at the region per capita...how does the City of St. Louis rank against Clayton, other areas. 1 per 11,000. Some of the cities out in the county 1 in every 5 people. When you look at the City of St. Louis and there are still people saying that their alderman isn't calling me back. I don't know how we don't do anything without adding more money to the budget that can deliver everything that the people are asking for.

Q: I thank you so much for explaining it...but I still haven't heard if you are in favor or not.

A: We can have a conversation on our own...

Q: We have had multiple meetings with Dr. Adams...I have a responsibility to the 26,000 people that elected me. What has been done to link this community to the school district? If we were to reduce wards it's automatically going to make it harder. As a school board member...what is being done is working with the district. We can throw money at anything. What are we doing at a grass roots level to have some type of partnership with aldermanic presence in the community?

A: Worked with the superintendent to get accreditation back. That was a lot of work that was not easy. The focus needs to be on curriculum and the kids. And it's helped, there is no doubt that it has helped. Is there still a long way to go? Absolutely. It's a multi-pronged attack. We look at the system and need to look at the entire environment...nutrition. Issues that kids are having in their household distracting them from school. Harlem Children's Zone...they began to address the wrap around services so that kids had a stable household prior to coming to school. How do you begin to tie these non-profits in so that they are meeting their intended mark. That also needs to happen.

Sen. Jamilah Nasheed for Claire McCaskill: Good evening. Let me thank both alderwomen for their outstanding job. I am not here on behalf of the Senate, I am here representing Claire McCaskill. I know that you are seeing these dark, ugly, ads on television. Those ads are being paid for by billionaires that don't live here in Missouri. I'm here today because Claire has had our back and now it is time for us to have Claire's back. This is a defining moment for us. Claire has been fighting for the men and women serving our country...who don't get the right services when they return. Claire has been fighting hard to protect our veterans. Has been fighting hard for those that sought higher education only to realize that they have extreme debt. Those men and women who cannot afford to pay their prescription drugs...she has stood up against the pharmaceutical companies. What we have in Claire is a fighter. We have to send her back to the Senate. This is not just about Claire, this is about protecting and preserving our democracy as we know it. You all see what's happening on the federal level. Doing everything possible to turn back the block. Kavanaugh...how many are you following this? Claire was getting pressure from both sides...she followed her conscience and said that she could not support him. He would do everything possible to roll back Roe v Wade and the Voter's Rights Act. I'm asking all of you to roll up your sleeves and look at this as a time in history...we are only two seats away from controlling the Senate. People are fired up across this country. If we could get two Dems elected and hold the line with Claire McCaskill. I believe that we are going to do it. We have to protect what we have in the state of MO. We can't have Josh Hawley climbing the ladder over those that work hard to stay in the middle class. He's going to carry the water for Donald Trump. Let's pull that ladder from out underneath him. Claire needs your support. Make phone calls, yard signs. I passed out her literature.

Officer Wilson: Wanted to touch on the trash task force. If you find any bulk items, please call the CSB and have them direct it to the Trash Task Force. We have a lot of cameras in the alleys...make sure you direct it to the TTF for bulk items. The crew picks it up real fast for you. Last month crime stats...1 rape. She was raped by her live-in boyfriend and also beaten but she was very brave and went to the police. She got out of that relationship. Robbery, guy was followed from the boat and when he returned to Grand and Bates and visiting someone when he was robbed. Aggr assault, both are domestic. Burglary, 3 were rehabs. If you see someone working on property...keep an eye out. Vehicle thefts...two of them were Dodges. If you have a Dodge, make sure to get a club. \$13 we can get you a club. Forgery...make sure to look at your money. Walgreens took in a \$100 bill... Fraud, if you get someone calling you on the phone to open up your computer, absolutely not. Lots of scams out there with the holidays approaching. IRS calling, that is B.S. Never respond.

Q: Can we report them?

A: No...the numbers change all the time.

Mouse Races, fund raiser for the officer of the month and officer of the year. Tickets are \$20...they have a lot of seats left. It's a good time...we would love to see you.

Report derelicts cars to me...Lisa ([lisa@hollyhills.info](mailto:lisa@hollyhills.info)) will help report them too. I can quickly get them out of your neighborhood.

A: I can attest to that...you have come out two times.

Q: We have two plastic trash cans in our alley. Called the CSB they said to call the company and have them retrieve it.

A: It could be Eagle Waste...over on 7700 Alabama. Give them a call and they will come get them for you.

Q: Walking in the park, two \$50 bills laying in the gutter.

A: Yeah...they're out there.

Q: I live on Burgen. My neighbors were here...4216 Bates is a very heavy heroin problem. I have a couple hobby cars and no less than 12 deliveries made in one night between 5 o'clock and 10:30. They went up the alley, stopped, picked it up. He had a nuisance property sign put on the front of the building. The Building Inspector condemned it. The man did some repairs...his daughter is the addict. People in the alley passed out.

A: I'm going to run the calls for service.

A (NIS Andrew Hernandez): It is already on the nuisance list...the house was up for sale and it's no longer for sale. He complied with the property requirements for why it was condemned. But it is still under nuisance.

Donna Jones: current elected school board member. We have two boards...our duty is to audit and report. I just want to say briefly...I have 33 years continued as a SLPS parent. Been on the board for 12 years. I've served because the parents should have their own say on the board. Legislation to dismantle the provisional school board. We have lost close to 1,000 children every year. We have some wonderful students and wonderful teachers and they're not happy with what's going on. Supported by the teacher's union. The teachers are not getting paid what they need.

Neighborhood Improvement Specialist Andrew Hernandez: CSB issues...if you go online to enter your request. If there is a report already in...any duplicate will be closed and the other order will be referenced. When you put in a report to CSB...they just take the call and send the tickets to the appropriate dept. It is the dept that closes the order...if your ticket is closed please call the dept.

Cutting season will soon be coming to an end soon so please call if there are areas that need attention. National Night Out is Tuesday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Congrats on having a good crowd...this is one of the larger attended meetings. We have four nuisance properties in Ward 13. Two of them are on Dewey...5200 block and 5400 block of Dewey. 4216 Bates, already mentioned. Keep calling the police any time you see it. Also 4000 block of Burgen.

Q: I'm glad to hear that the properties on Dewey are on your list. Two neighbors are working on getting resolution. It seems like the city supports these derelict owners, they keep getting 90 days. Is it time for the city to take a look at the procedure?

A: I agree with you. As someone who has worked for the city for a long time...we are frustrated as well.

A (Alderman Murphy): We are implementing the same system as KC to reduce the timeframe for unpaid taxes from 3 years to 2 years.

Alderwoman Beth Murphy: The bridge....the city is going to use bridge bond money to pay for the bridge. The railroad wants to raise the bridge to make them higher to get larger trains through. We don't want that. Lot on 4301 Holly Hills and Morganford. It used to be the Flower Box. A fellow bought it...he is going to build a home there and put a privacy fence up. The chatter on ND was that it was going to be used car lot...no it's not. I won't allow that. The pickleball courts coming in the fall. The challenge course (mini-ninja course)...BJC, Parks & Rec, Sarah and I all put money in for this. DB Cooper's opened over on Gravois. It's run by the son of the Gallagher Family of Waterloo. When I saw the \$1.25 beer sign...that made me a little nervous. Seems to be doing ok. 5200 S. Grand and Walsh...someone purchased it and they want to put in a Mexican restaurant. Already has a restaurant on Cherokee @ California. Honorary Street sign on Bates...called Robert Prager Way near the cemetery between Morganford AND Gravois. A gentlemen that was lynched during WWI because he was a German immigrant. He is buried at that cemetery.

Q: What's the status of the café at Dewey and Wilmington?

A: I don't know...we did sidewalk and trees for him. Says he is going to have a catering business and a café. They had a baby...he does the business with his family.

Q: What's going into the old Office Max in LC?

A: Haven't heard anything. The Ross Dress for Less deal fell through.

Bellerive Days this weekend

Strange Folk Festival will be in Carondelet Park this weekend, Fri-SAT-SUN

Holly Hills Grills on Sunday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> from 1pm-5pm

Next meeting is November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018